



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: House Bill 850 - Schools, Prekindergarten Programs, and County Boards of Education - Discrimination

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

The purpose of this letter is to share our support for Senate Bill 98, which would prohibit discrimination against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This legislation would also protect individuals from being denied enrollment or from retaliation after filing a complaint alleging discrimination. Importantly, the language in the bill provides exceptions for religiously-affiliated institutions and schools with single-sex enrollment.

While the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has published guidance on antidiscrimination protections, these protections are not currently guaranteed by law. We feel that it is important that such protections are codified into state law. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 98.

If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Member, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association